Default in P.F.

308. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recently released a list of companies that have defaulted in remitting their Provident Fund share to the EPF Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time bound programme has been formulated to recover such share of PF from central PSUs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A list of defaulting establishments with a default of Rs. 10 lakhs and above has been released on the web site of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation.

(c) and (d) All the Administrative Ministries have been addressed by the Union Labour Minister to evolve a special strategy for liquidating the outstanding dues by Central PSUs.

In additon to the regular penal action provided under the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, the following steps have also been taken for recovery of outstanding dues—

(i) Representation in courts have been strengthened to get stay orders vacated and counter writ-petition field.

(ii) The Central Board of Trustrees, Employees' Provident Fund has approved setting up of a separate Directorate of Recovery to monitor and coordinate recovery work incldluing closer coordination with BIFR, Standing Counsels of the Organisation, etc.

Accidental deaths of labourers

309. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that construction and contract labours are frequently dying in accidents in Rourkela Steel Plant, NTPC Konia and NTPC Talcher for lack of safety measures; if so, the total number of workers died in accidents therein during the last three years;

(b) whether the contract labourers were getting the wages at par with the regular employees and also getting the health and safety facilities; and

(c) whether Government would give clear instruction to strictly maintain the safety standards to prevent further accidents?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) Construction and contract labours are not dying frequent at Rourkela Steel Plant, NTPC Konia and NTPC Talcher due to lack of safety measures. Details of accidents during last three years are as under:

	2001	2002	2003
Rourkela Steel Plant	Nil	4	1
NTPC (Kaniha) Talcher	5	6	7
NTPC (Angul) Talcher	Nil	Nil	2

These accidents have occurred due to negligence and non adherence of safety norms by individual contract labours concerned.

(b) Contract labours were not supposed to be getting equal wages as per regular employees but were entitled to wages as agreed to by the contractors which was not less than the prescribed minimum wages. Medical check-up health/medical facilities are also extended to them in NTPC Hospitals. Contract labour in Rourkela Steel Plant are covered under the Employees' State insurance Act, 1948 and as such they are entitled to medical care, as per the provisions of the Act. To ensure safety, all necessary safety facilities like personal protective equipment, awareness training programmes, etc. are provided as per the provisions contained under the Factories Act, 1948.

(c) Rourkela Steel Plant and NTPC takes comprehensive safety measures like providing safety personal protective equipment, regular on-the-job training, inspection and identification of unsafe acts/conditions, safety audit, review meetings on safety, etc. To ensure compliance of use of safety appliances, surprise checks are made by safety inspectors/officers. In case of any deviation, gate passes are seized and contract labourers are not allowed to work till corrective measures have been taken.

Legislation for farm labours

310. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state: